

KENT COUNTY, DELAWARE

REFERENCE TIDE GAUGE - LEWES (BREAKWATER HARBOR)

There is no National Ocean Service tide gauge in Kent County. As a result, the Lewes tide gauge is being used as the reference for the county. The gauge is located on the bay side of Cape Henlopen in Breakwater Harbor.

High tides along Kent County's bay shore occur later than the high tides at Lewes. The time differences range from about 25 minutes in the southern part of the county to around 1½ hours in the northern part of the county. Low tides range from about 50 minutes later in the south to around 2¼ hours later in the north.

The marshes in Kent County act like back bays during prolonged periods of onshore flow. If the water is not allowed to drain out of the marshes, any tidal flooding will either persist or worsen.

Data Acquisition

In order to access data from the Lewes gauge, use the National Ocean Service web site at <http://tidesonline.nos.noaa.gov/>.

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The tide heights from actual events referenced in the following table are those that were verified by the National Ocean Service. They may vary slightly from figures found in other National Weather Service publications.

THE PERIOD OF RECORD FOR THE LEWES GAUGE BEGINS IN FEBRUARY 1919. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE GAPS WITHIN THE PERIOD OF RECORD DUE TO EQUIPMENT OUTAGES AND/OR DATA AVAILABILITY.

ALL HEIGHTS ARE IN MEAN LOWER LOW WATER (MLLW).

- 9.2 FT — March 6, 1962.
- 8.8 FT — January 4, 1992.
- 8.7 FT — October 29, 2012 (Post Tropical Cyclone Sandy).
- 8.6 FT — January 28, 1998.
- 8.5 FT — February 5, 1998.
- 8.0 FT — MAJOR TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**
September 27, 1985 (Hurricane Gloria) / March 3, 1994 / August 27, 2011 (Hurricane Irene).
- 7.9 FT — October 25, 1980 / March 29, 1984.
- 7.8 FT — December 12, 1992 / January 7, 1996 / November 13, 2009.
- 7.7 FT — May 12, 2008 / October 29, 2011.
- 7.6 FT — October 14, 1977 / February 17, 2003.
- 7.5 FT — October 31, 1991.

- 7.4 FT — September 18, 1936 (Hurricane) / December 22, 1972 / January 2, 1987 / November 14, 1997 / January 25, 2000 / October 7, 2006.
- 7.3 FT — December 9, 1973 / October 8, 1996 / October 17, 2009 / June 4, 2012 / March 6, 2013.
- 7.2 FT — September 25, 1992 (Tropical Storm Danielle) / May 25, 2005.
- 7.1 FT — January 31, 2006 / December 19, 2009.
- 7.0 FT — MODERATE TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**
November 1, 1947 / February 26, 1979 / November 15, 1981 / December 2, 1986 / October 19, 1989 / January 3, 2003.
- 6.9 FT — DE Route 9 in Leipsic floods in the vicinity of the Leipsic River.
Flooding occurs in Milford along the Mispillion River.
- 6.7 FT — DE Route 9 (Main Street) in Little Creek floods.
- 6.3 FT — DE Route 6 into Woodland Beach floods.
Kent County Route 89 into Port Mahon floods.
Kent County Route 349 into Pickering Beach floods.
Kent County Route 68 into Kitts Hummock floods.
Kent County Route 107 near Barkers Landing floods.
Kent County Route 18 into Bowers Beach floods.
Kent County Route 121 into Webb Landing and South Bowers floods.
Kent County Route 124 into Big Stone Beach floods.
- 6.0 FT — MINOR TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**
- 1.8 FT — BLOWOUT TIDE.**
- 2.8 FT — March 7, 1939 / March 18, 1976 / October 26, 1980.
- 2.9 FT — March 28, 1919 / February 9, 1958 / February 8, 1959 / February 22, 1959.
- 3.0 FT — December 8, 1939 / March 5, 1954 / December 22, 1976 / January 11, 1977 / December 10, 1977.
- 3.1 FT — January 25, 1939 / November 30, 1958.
- 3.2 FT — January 6, 1959 / March 16, 1980.
- 3.4 FT — January 28, 1971.
- 4.2 FT — January 10, 1978.